

REMARKS

Claims 1-42 are pending in the application. All claims have been rejected. The rejections are traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112**Technology Center 2600**

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As amended and argued in the entered Amendment After Final Rejection of January 8, 2002, claim 1 does not require a particular order for clearing the image and flashing the light source. Accordingly, flashing the light source can occur before clearing the image, as stated in amended claim 18.

Thus, amended claim 18 particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which the applicants' regard as the invention. The §112 rejection of claim 18 is therefore believed to be overcome.

Rejection of claims 1-7 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b)

Claims 1-7 and 12-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stewart (US 5,337,068). That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As held by the Federal Circuit, “a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.”¹ However, in the present Office Action, the Examiner fails to point out the passages in Stewart where each and every element of the claim is discussed. In particular, the Examiner fails to cite the passages discussing a matrix liquid crystal display having an array of at least 75,000 pixel electrodes and an active area of less than 20 mm². In fact, as argued in the entered Amendment After Final Rejection of January 8, 2002, Stewart fails to disclose these features as recited in independent claims 1 and 12.

¹Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631; 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)

Thus, Stewart does not anticipate the present invention as claimed in claims 1 and 12. Claims 2-6 depend from independent claim 1, and claim 13 depends from independent claim 12. As such, the rejection of claims 1-7 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 is believed to be overcome. If the Examiner maintains this rejection, the Applicants would appreciate citation of the passages in Stewart discussing the above claimed features. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 are respectfully requested.

Rejections of claims 1-17 and 19-42 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a)

Claims 1-7, 12-13, 15, 19-23 and 28-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart. Claims 14 and 16-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart in view of Ross (US 4,917,469). Claims 8-11, 24-28, and 34-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stewart in view of Kaneko (US 6,151,004). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that the number of the pixels and the size of the display are considered as an obvious design choice because “each pixel of the active matrix LCD is controlled by a TFT switch which is build on a substrate and the pixel can be made in a very small size.”

Although the use of TFT switches does allow the pixels to be made in a small size, it is not an obvious design choice to make a matrix liquid crystal display having an array of at least 75,000 pixel electrodes and an active area of less than 20 mm², as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 34 and 35. As the pixel size gets smaller, the circuits and wiring need to be adjusted and modified. For example, as the pixel size gets smaller and the pixel density increases, interferences among the pixels increase. In addition, it is more difficult to manufacture displays having a small pixel size and high pixel density, as claimed in the present application. As explained in the entered Amendment After Final of January 8, 2002, Stewart is merely concerned with forming a color LCD display by placing a single matrix of LCD devices over a bank of red, green and blue fluorescent lamps. Stewart’s description of the device and the operation of the

device says nothing about the number of pixel electrodes in the display nor the active area of the display.

Furthermore, the Examiner acknowledges the deficiencies of Stewart, but states that the claimed number of pixel electrodes and the active area of the pixel electrodes are obvious design choices because the pixel can be made in a very small size. However, the Examiner fails to explain how the pixels can be made in a very small size and to state the sources on which the Examiner is relying. As explained in the MPEP, “when a rejection is based on facts within the personal knowledge of the examiner, the data should be stated as specifically as possible, and the facts must be supported.”² The Applicants would appreciate citation of references discussing how pixels can be made in a very small size such that an array of at least 75,000 pixel electrodes are placed in an active area of less than 20 mm².

Thus, the display having a matrix liquid crystal display having an array of at least 75,000 pixel electrodes and an active area of less than 20 mm², as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 34 and 35, is not made obvious by Stewart.

As for the secondary references, the Examiner cites Ross as teaching a LCD device with a sensor for sensing the liquid crystal and Kaneko as teaching a LCD device with a light source control. However, none of these references suggests the Applicants’ display having an array of at least 75,000 pixel electrodes and an active area of less than 20 mm². Hence, none of these secondary references overcomes the deficiencies of Stewart for at least the reasons stated above.

Furthermore, the Examiner states, in paragraph 10 of the Office Action, that claims 8-11 are not entitled to a priority date that predates April 16, 1998 because the present application is a continuation-in-part application having an effective filing date of May 10, 1999. The MPEP states that “any claims which are fully supported under 35 U.S.C. §112 by the earlier parent application have the effective filing date of that earlier parent application.”³ Claims 8-11 are supported in the description of the invention in the earlier parent application 09/004,706, filed on

²MPEP 2144.03

³MPEP 706.02

January 8, 1998, now issued as US 6,476,784.⁴ Thus, the Applicants' claims 8-11 are entitled to a priority date that predates April 16, 1998. Accordingly, Kaneko is disqualified as prior art.

Stewart and Ross, alone or in combination thereof, do not make obvious the invention described in independent claims 1, 10, 12, 34 and 35.

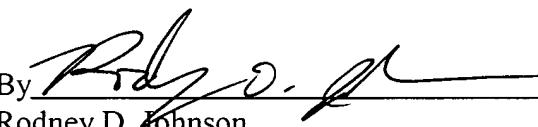
Claims 2-9 and 18-23 depend from independent claim 1, claims 11 and 24-28 depend from independent claim 10, claims 13-17 and 29-33 depend from independent claim 12, and claims 36-42 depend from independent claim 35. As such, the rejections of claims 1-46 under 35 U.S.C. §103 are believed to be overcome. Reconsideration of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (978) 341-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: *December 3, 2002*

⁴See Figs. 12A, 12B and 12D; col. 4, lns. 44-50; col. 1, lns. 54-65; col. 12, lns. 18-20; and col. 18, lns. 42-43.